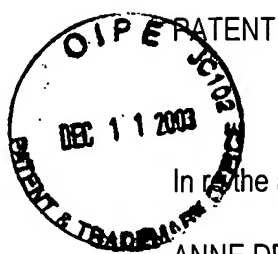


1648



DOCKET NO. 17999.001DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

ANNE DE GROOT

Serial No. 10/055 524

Filed: October 26, 200

For: IMMUNOGENIC
HIV PEPTIDES

RECEIVED

DEC 16 2003

Examiner: J. Parkin

Art Unit: 1648

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, PO BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 USA on December 9, 2003.

Signed:

Luann Csern

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
USA

This is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed November 10, 2003. A response is due December 10, 2003. This response should therefore be deemed timely filed.

Applicant hereby elects Group 1, claim 1-8 drawn to a single HIV recombinant vaccine peptide, and elects the sequence enumerated as SEQ ID NO: 211, with traverse in part.

Applicant does not traverse the requirement with respect to Group I and Group II, but does traverse the requirement with respect to a sequence within Group I. The examiner states that each of the peptides constitutes independent and distinct inventions and are unrelated such that separate searches will be required for each peptide. This basis is not supported by any factual evidence and is not supportable by any factual evidence. As the examiner indicates, the peptides are classified in the same classes and subclasses. The peptides are all HIV peptides and they all are intended to produce an effective immune response upon presentation. Consequently, the additional election requirement is inappropriate and should

be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The claims will be amended to reflect this election in a future amendment. A new Power of Attorney reflecting the change in attorney representation will also be filed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Luann Cserr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luann Cserr
Reg. No. 31,822

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